

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings include amendments to FIGS. 1A-5B and replaces the original drawings including FIGS. 1A-5B. Marked copies of amended FIGS. 1A-5B are also enclosed.

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REMARKS

Indicated allowability of claims 1, 10-12, 15, 22, 23, 27, 34, and 35 is acknowledged with thanks. Claims 1, 10-12, 15, 22, 23, 27, 34 and 35 have been amended to obviate the §112 rejection and also to better define the claimed invention and conform to U.S. practice. Therefore, claims 1, 10-12, 15, 22, 23, 27, 34 and 35 should be allowable.

The specification has been amended to employ more idiomatic English and to better conform to the preferred layout for specifications. A substitute specification accompanies this amendment.

Turning to the drawing objection, the drawings have been amended to conform to the specification. Specifically, numbers labeling the elements of the invention have been added to FIGs. 1A-5B. The tool or tool array being inserted into a needle or catheter is shown and labeled in every figure. Corrected formal drawings will be filed upon allowance of the application. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants' attach a replacement set of drawings.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

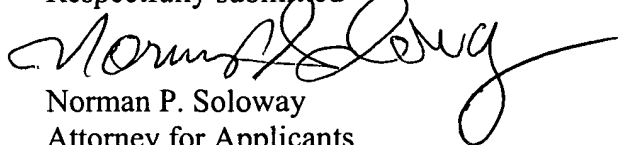
Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

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Respectfully submitted



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Amendment B

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 29, 2004 at Tucson, Arizona.

NPS/WPO:lv

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